

# PRODUCT CLOSE-UP

## From The Ground Up

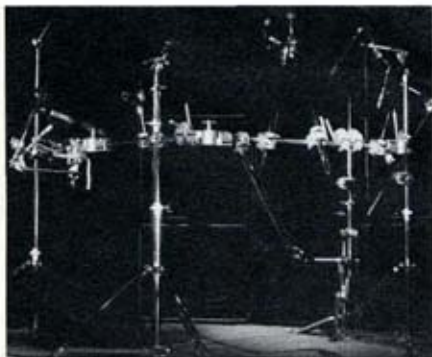
This month, we'll examine three product lines that literally take us from the ground up on a drumkit. At ground level, we have the L.T. Lug Lock *Gig Rug*; in the middle, we have the Collarlock mounting system; at the top, we have the Profile line of cymbals.

### L.T. Lug Lock Gig Rug



The L.T. Lug Lock *Gig Rug* is a 5 1/2-foot square rug for stabilizing your drumkit when playing on a slippery floor. The *Gig Rug* consists of a thin piece of indoor/outdoor carpeting with a 20" wide bass drum barrier attached. The barrier block stands approximately two inches high, and has an L.T. Lug Lock nameplate on its front. (I suppose one could remove the plate if desired, and replace it with a personalized one.) The *Gig Rug* is large enough to accommodate a double bass drum setup, but is extremely portable, since it can fold into a two-foot roll and pack away into a trap case. I, for one, was grateful to have the sample *Gig Rug* in my own trap case when I went to a job, and found that the stage was a waxed wooden floor. The *Gig Rug* definitely saved my kit from wandering all over! The *Gig Rug* retails at \$54.00, and comes in red, blue, or brown. Contact L.T. Lug Lock, Box 204, Tonawanda, NY 14151 for more information.

### Collarlock



Creative Percussion in Canada has engineered a new drum-support system to fit all brands of drums and hardware. The *Collarlock* Bar System uses 1" steel tubing in various lengths, which interlock with one

another to form a custom-angled bar for mounting tom-toms and cymbals. Three different connectors are used to build the *Collarlock* system:

1. *Angle connectors.* These are used to combine tubing lengths to create the bar shape you need. These joints operate on a lateral ratchet with a T-screw to adjust the angle. The tubing pipes fit into holes on either side of the connector, and are locked in via drumkey-operated screws.

The steel tubing itself is available in lengths ranging from 12" to 36". In conjunction with the angle connectors, these different lengths allow practically any shape of frame to be assembled, in order to conform to your setup needs.

2. *Quick-Release connectors.* Unlike Pearl's *Drum Rack*, which has its own legs, the *Collarlock* system uses your present cymbal stands as the means of support. Quick-Release connectors are used to attach the *Collarlock* bar frame to the stand height tubes. These connectors remain on the stands, and are hinged for easy setup and take down of the tubing bar. Three sizes are available: 7/8", 1", and 1 1/8". It's best to use double-braced boom stands as your anchor pieces for two reasons: They're sturdy and less prone to tipping over, and they will allow cymbals to be placed closely even if their stand bases are located away from the drums.

3. *Component connectors.* These are used to mount each rack tom (plus cymbal and mic' posts, if desired). They are basically key-operated split clamps, which may be placed anywhere on the bar. The component connectors come in five different hole diameters, so every brand of holder arm is provided for. Locator rings are also available to memorize position.

*Collarlock* has cataloged bar-systems for commonly used setups, but drummers can "custom design" their own bar-system. A template is provided for illustrating your own kit to a scale of one inch equals one foot. You can then choose tubing lengths, and the angle, component, and quick-release connectors you'll need to meet your design. *Collarlock* will easily handle Simmons pads, *RotoToms*, *Octobans*, and other "irregular" drum forms.

I tried a three-tom *Collarlock* setup, and found it to be very sturdy. The rack toms were placed exactly as before, and at the same angles as before once I finally got it set up. The initial construction of the bar-system takes a while, but once that is completed, future setting up and dismantling goes quickly. The system is very modern looking (or is "high-tech" the fashionable

word?).

*Collarlock* is an interesting alternative to common drumkit setups, especially since it makes use of your existing hardware. A setup for a five-piece drumkit retails at approximately \$200. For more information, contact Collarlock Canada, Inc., 13373 64A Ave., Surrey, B.C., V3W 7C8, Canada.

### Profile Cymbals



For over 30 years, Roland Meinl has been busy making cymbals in West Germany. The Profile line, recently introduced in the USA, contains four distinct cymbal groups. Because of computer-controlled production, each cymbal has a consistent sound; one 16" crash from a certain group will sound virtually identical to another of the same size and weight. This is a big plus if you're trying to replace that favorite Profile cymbal of yours that was lost or stolen.

The *Hi-Tech* cymbals are lightweight and somewhat comparable to Paiste's *Formula 602*. They fit in nicely with jazz and studio work, due to their delicate response and crystal-like sound. The *Hi-Tech* bells are low-pitched. The overall cymbal sound has fast response and contains many nice overtones. *Hi-Techs* are available in 14" hi-hat, 11" splash, 16" and 18" crash, and 20" ride models.

Profile's *Rock Velvet* group is made up of medium-weight cymbals, good for rock or jazz. The *Rock Velvets* seem to be Profile's "all-around" cymbal. They have a brilliant, dynamic sound along with good power. I feel that they may fit nicely with electronic percussion. *Rock Velvets* are offered in 14" hi-hat, 16", 17" and 18" crash, and 20" and 21" ride styles.

The *Volcanic Rock* cymbals are exactly what their name says. They are heavy in weight, and are expressly made for hard rock playing. They respond loudly and can



by Bob Saydlowski, Jr.

take a beating. The 20" ride is dry sounding with good stick definition, while the crash cymbals simply explode. The *Volcanic Rock* series included 14" hi-hats, 16" and 18" crashes, and a 20" ride.

Profile's fourth group is the unique *Dragon/China*. These cymbals approach the sound of genuine Chinese cymbals. Each has an extremely dark, sometimes gong-like sound. Jazz drummers might like to have a set of the *Dragons*, and rock players who are after some special effects should check out the splash and crash cymbals. The *Dragon* sounds are something we are not really accustomed to hearing, but they really do grow on you. The *Dragon* cymbal series is made up of 14" and 15" hi-hats, 10", 11", and 12" splashes, 14", 15", 16", and 18" crashes, an 18" crash/ride, and a 20" ride (in two weights).

Profile cymbals certainly merit consideration the next time you're shopping for cymbals. The quality and sound are there, and the price is competitive with other major brands.



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